GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3313
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
FSSAI
Parthipan Shri R.;Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding services provided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make FSSAI more transparent and user friendly for public and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to induct more labs, manpower training and technology to regulate the adulteration of food in the food industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to update and modify regulatory framework and fast track elimination of harmful ingredients/additives from foods/beverages and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): Occasional complaints have been received by the Government regarding services provided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The complaints are mainly about delay in grant of licences to Food Business Operators (FBOs) and delay in issuance of No-objection Certificate for imported food consignments. However, such delays have been found to be mostly on account of time taken by FBOs in providing information required by the FSSAI.
(b): The Government is committed to enhance transparency, objectivity and predictability in the working of the FSSAI and with this in view, has taken a number of initiatives in the recent past for streamlining processes relating to grant of licences, import clearance, improving food testing facilities, etc. Further, all important information pertaining to functioning of the FSSAI has been uploaded on its website.
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(c): Several steps have been taken to increase the capacity of the food regulatory structures in the country including food testing facilities. The number of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI to carry out test/analysis of food samples has been increased to 112, in addition to 72 State food testing laboratories and 14 referral laboratories. The FSSAI is regularly organising training programmes for food analysts and other laboratory technicians to enhance availability of qualified manpower for testing of food products. Training programmes are also being organized for food regulatory staff and for FBOs including street food vendors for improving self-compliance with the prescribed regulatory requirements. The FSSAI, on 13.05.2016, has also launched a Mobile Application to enable the consumers to raise concerns about food safety. FSSAI distributed rapid milk testing equipment [Electronic Milk Adulteration Tester (EMAT) with Milk Analyser] to three States/UTs i.e. Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and UT of Chandigarh on pilot basis.
(d): In the recent past, an all out effort has been made by the Ministry and the FSSAI to lay down standards for a large number of food items. As part of this effort, the FSSAI has operationalised standards of food additives for use in various food categories. These standards are harmonised with Codex General Standards for Food Additives based on the safety assessment by JECFA (Joint Expert Committee for Food Additives) of Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization.
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